

Transcribed Excerpts from Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954

Excerpt 1

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(A) THE HILL 303 MASSACRE

On August 14, 1950, a group of 26 American soldiers was surprised and captured by North Koreans whom the Americans had reason to believe were reinforcements. The men were stripped of their combat boots and personal belongings and their hands were tied behind their backs. The second day after capture, several other American prisoners joined their group, bringing the total number to approximately 45. On the third day all of the prisoners were led to a ravine, and without warning, while their hands were tied, were shot in cold blood. Only four survived. Roy Paul Manring, Jr., formerly a corporal with H Company, 155th Cavalry Regiment, and 1 of 4 survivors of the Hill 303 massacre, testified:

Mr. MANRING. They just kept us in a ravine in the daytime. Then at night they'd move us across the country. On August 17 about the middle of the afternoon they motioned for us to get up again, that they was going to move us out again. That's when it happened. That's when I started hearing shots. I looked around and I saw my buddies was falling, getting murdered with their hands tied behind their back.

Senator POTTER. Did they hit you?

Mr. MANRING. Yes. The first time they hit me I got hit in the leg and the upper part of the arm. What caused me to fall was a fellow in front of me. When he fell then I fell and as he fell the wire that they had broke loose and left me by myself. My hands were still tied behind my back.

Senator POTTER. Did they think that you were dead?

Mr. MANRING. Yes, I guess they thought I was dead. As they left, a couple of minutes later I heard a sound like somebody was coming back, so I managed to wiggle my body underneath the fellow that was next to me—was dead—and they come by and they started kicking and you could hear the fellows hollering, grunting, groaning, and praying, and when they kicked me they kicked my leg and I made a grunting sound and that's when I caught it in the gut, got shot in the gut at the time.

Excerpt 2

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(C) TAEJON MASSACRE

On September 27, 1950, approximately 60 American prisoners who had been confined in Taejon prison were taken into the prison yard in groups of 14, with their hands wired together. These men were forced to sit hunched in hastily dug ditches and then were shot by North Korean troops at point blank range, with American M-1 rifles, using armor-piercing ammunition. Of the 2 seriously wounded survivors, only 1 had to recount the gruesome details. Unnumbered civilians estimated at between 5,000 and 7,000, as well as soldiers of the Republic of Korea, were also slaughtered at Taejon between September 23 and September 27, 1950."

Sgt. Carey H. Weinel, formerly with the 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Division, Korea, and the sole survivor of the infamous Taejon massacre, testified:

Sergeant WEINEL. Toward the last they was in a hurry to leave Taejon, to evacuate Taejon, so they took approximately the last three groups pretty close together. I witnessed the group right in front of me shot. After they was shot we was taken to the ditch and sat down in the ditch and shot.

Senator POTTER. What happened to you when you were shot?

Sergeant WEINEL. I leaned over against the next man, pretending I was done for. In firing, they hit my hand

Senator POTTER. HOW were YOU sitting in the ditch?

Sergeant WEINEL. They was aiming at my head. I have a scar on my neck, 1 on my collarbone, and another 1 hit my hand. They hit me 3 times.

Senator POTTER. And you played dead?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. After they thought everybody was dead, they started burying us. I came close to getting panicky about that time, but somehow or other I figured as long as I had some breath there was hope

Senator POTTER. In other words, you were buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir.

Sergeant WEINEL. I might add in that whole group that I was with, there was not a man that begged for mercy and there was not a man that cracked under the deal.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Sergeant, how long were you buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is hard to say, sir. As I say, I was shot around 5 o'clock in the morning, and I stayed in the ditch until that evening, until what time it was dark. I would say approximately 8 hours, 8 or 7 hours.